INSTRUCTIONS

SINGER Sewing Machine/Model 237

What's new for tomorrow is at **SINGER** *today!**

THE SINGER COMPANY

Form 608 (966)

*A Trademark of THE SINGER COMPANY

Printed in Italy

sewing machine model 237

AS THE OWNER OF THE SINGER* SEWING MACHINE, MODEL 237

you have a completely new, smooth running sewing machine that offers you a new world of sewing enjoyment.

May we recommend that, before you actually start to use your new sewing machine, you discover all the many advantages and the ease of operation by going through this instruction book step by step while seated at your machine.

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SINGER* SERVICE

Wherever you go you will find expert, dependable SINGER Service close at hand. THE SINGER COMPANY is interested in helping you keep your sewing machine in top running condition. That is why you should always call your SINGER CENTER if your machine ever requires adjustment or repair. Only from your SINGER CENTER can you obtain the services of a trained SINGER repair-man and warranted SINGER* parts.

EVERYTHING FOR THE WOMAN WHO SEWS

The answer to your sewing needs is at your SINGER CENTER. There you will find a wide choice of sewing aids, notions, sewing instructions and services. Look for the famous red "S" on your SINGER CENTER and the ever ready SINGER Service Car. Look under SINGER COMPANY, in phone book, for address nearest you.

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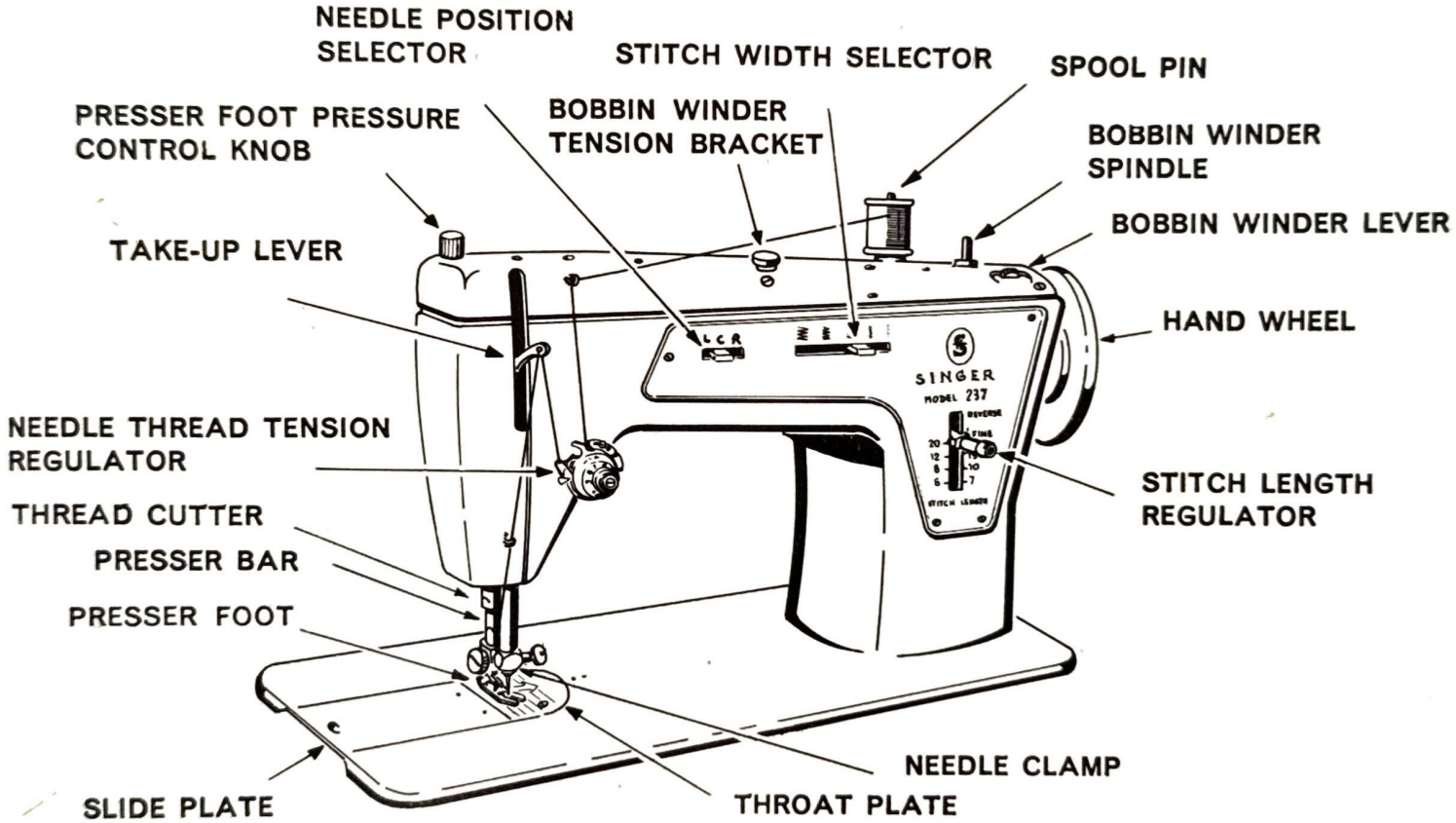
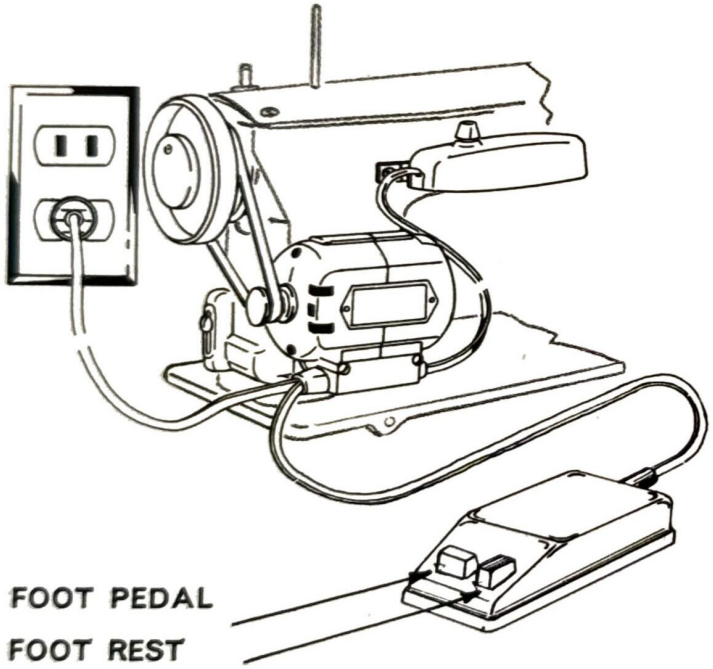
PRINCIPAL PARTS OF MACHINE 237



ELECTRICAL INFORMATION



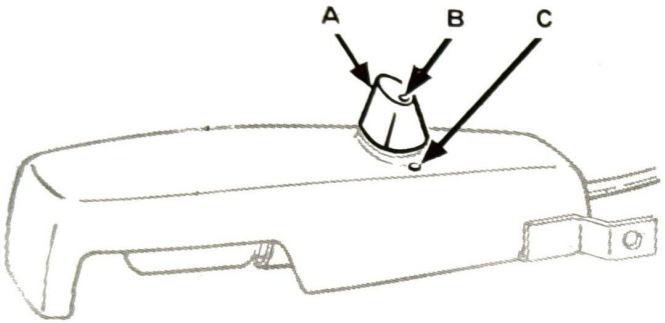
The SINGER* Electric Motor is located at the back of the machine and can be supplied for operation on alternating or direct current.

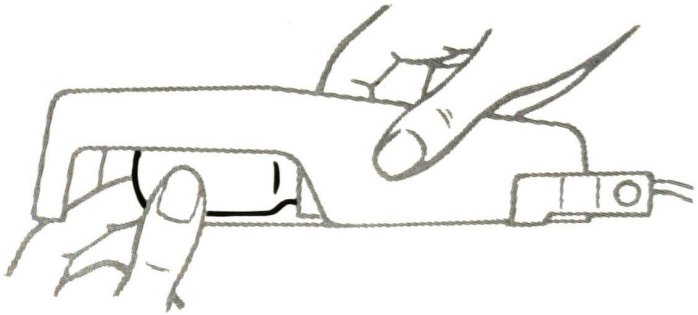
Before inserting electric plug, be sure that voltage and cycles stamped on terminal cover are within range marked on the electric meter installed by your power company.

Electrical Connection. Insert plug into nearest electrical outlet and the machine is ready for operation.

Speed Controller. Speed of machine is regulated by amount of pressure on pedal of foot controller or knee lever.

LIGHT





To turn light "on", reach over machine arm and turn switch **A** clockwise.

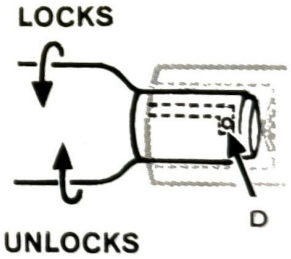
To turn light "off", turn switch **A** counterclockwise. In this position the mark **B** on switch is in line with mark **C** on light.

To Remove Bulb

Hold light with right hand. Bring left hand up under machine arm and press bulb into socket, at same time turn bulb over from machine as far as it will go to unlock pin **D**. Withdraw bulb.

To Insert Bulb

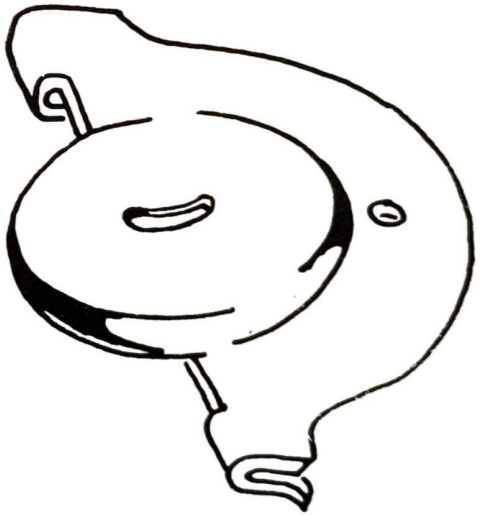
Press bulb into socket with pin **D** entering slot of socket. Turn bulb over toward machine until Pin **D** enters notch in socket.



SEWING MACHINE ACCESSORIES Model 237

In the envelope accompanying your sewing machine you will find the following accessories:

Three Bobbins
Three 15 x 1 Needles (# 14)
One Needle Threader
One Small Screw Driver
One Feed Cover Plate



(For use of Feed Cover Plate, see "Free Motion Work", page 41.)

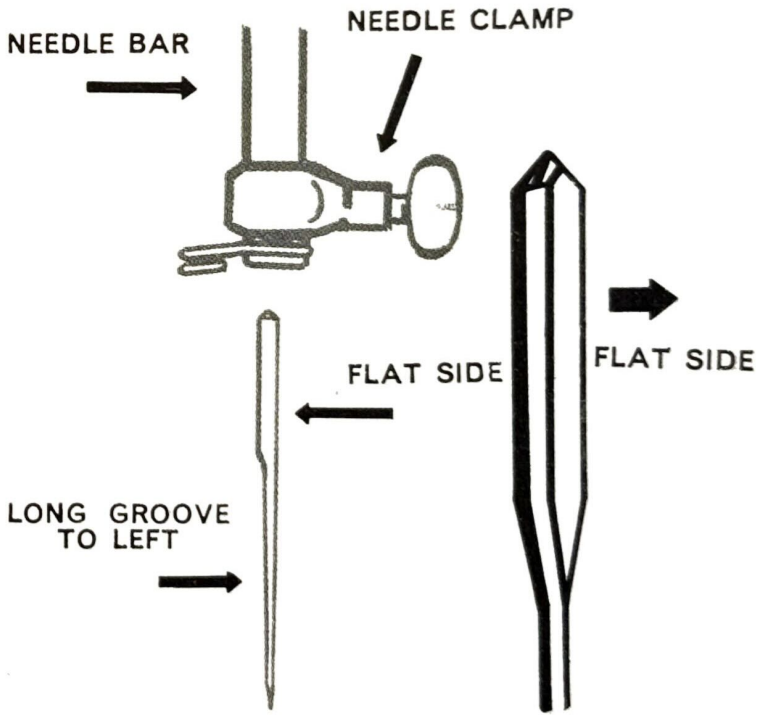
NEEDLES AND THREAD

This machine uses needle, Catalogue 2020 (15 x 1). Sizes 9, 11, 14, 16 and 18.

For perfect stitching, select correct needle and thread to correspond with fabric. (Refer to table on page. 21) Be sure to use like threads for both needle and bobbin.

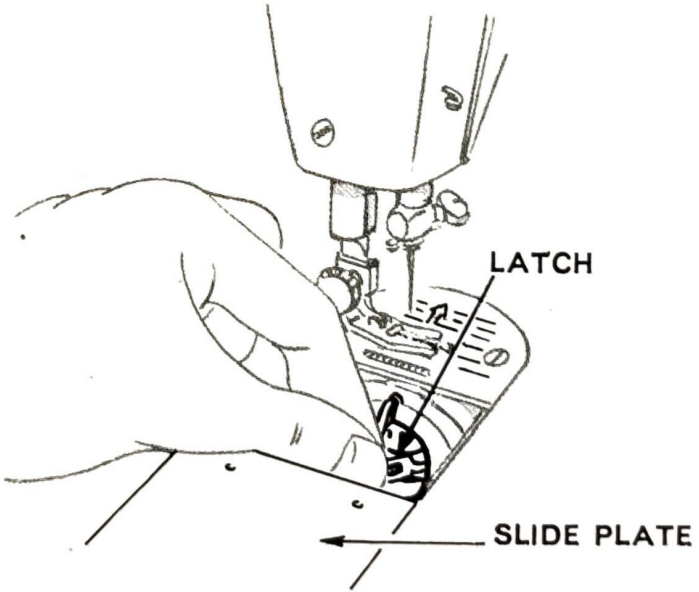
NEEDLE INSERTION

- Raise needle bar to highest point by turning hand wheel toward you.
- Loosen needle clamp screw.
- Insert needle upward into clamp as far as it will go, with **flat side of needle to right and long groove to left.**
- Tighten needle clamp screw.

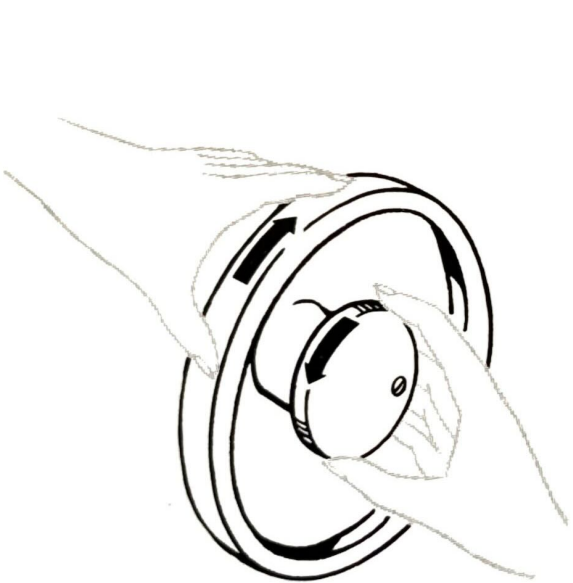


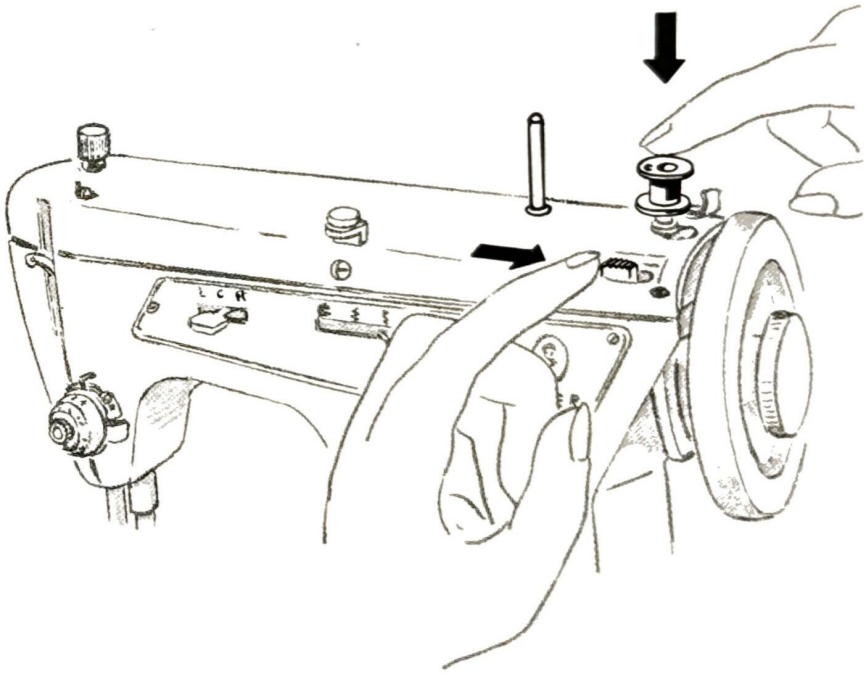
REMOVING BOBBIN CASE AND BOBBIN

- Raise thread take-up lever to its highest position.
- Open slide plate.
- Grasp bobbin case latch and withdraw bobbin case.
- Release latch and bobbin will drop out.



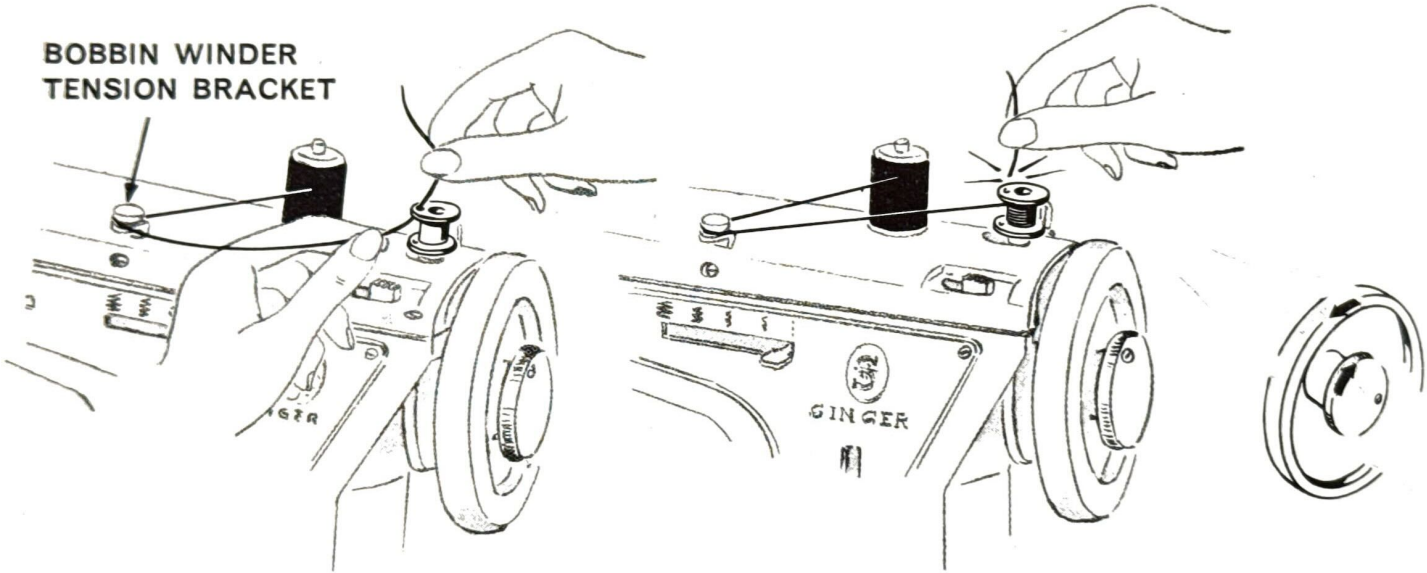
WINDING THE BOBBIN





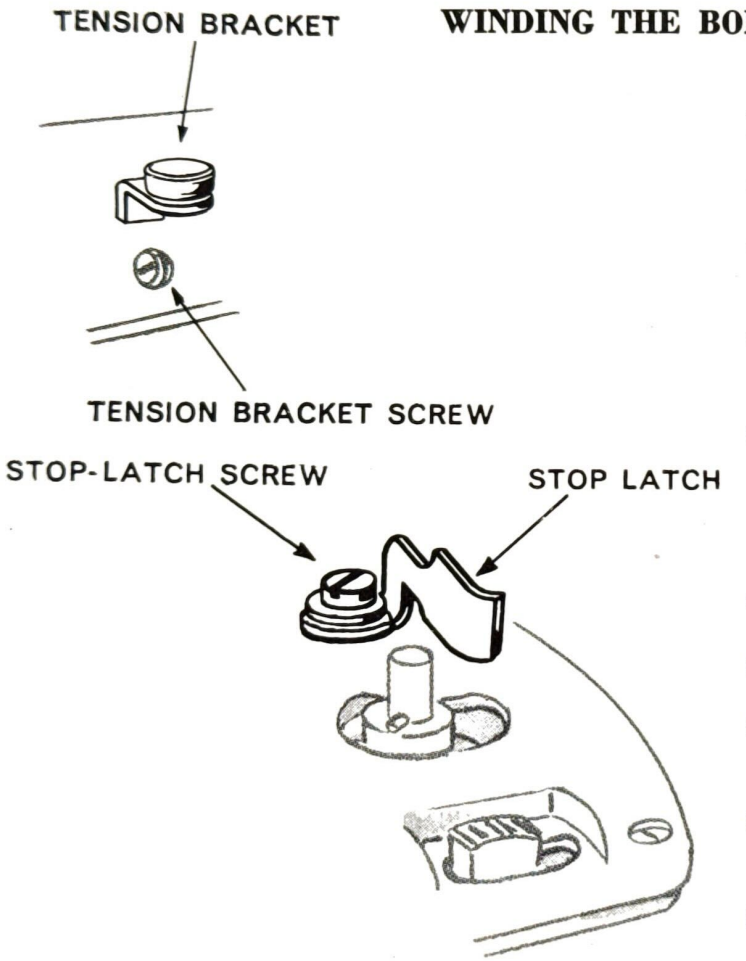
- Loosen stop-motion screw with right hand while holding hand wheel with left hand.
- Place empty bobbin on spindle.
- Move bobbin winder lever to the right.

WINDING THE BOBBIN (Continued)



- Place spool of thread on spool pin.
- Thread machine and bobbin as shown.
- Hold end of thread and start machine. (End of thread will snap off after a few coils have been wound on bobbin.) A full bobbin will automatically release.
- Stop machine and move bobbin winder lever to left.
- Cut connecting thread about three inches from bobbin and remove bobbin from spindle.
- Tighten stop-motion screw with the right hand while holding the hand wheel with the left hand.

WINDING THE BOBBIN (Continued)



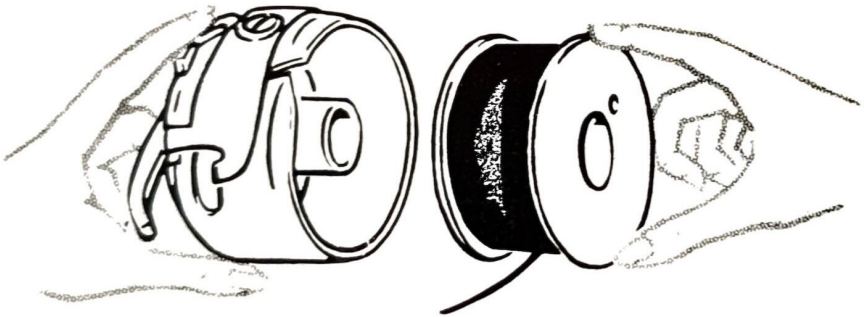
If thread does not wind evenly

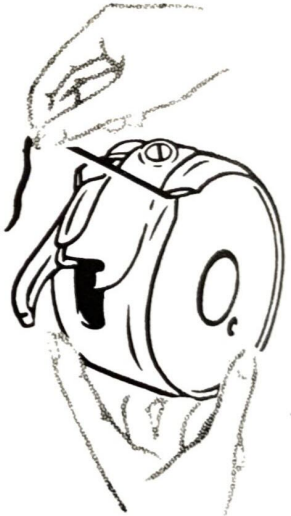
- Loosen tension bracket screw.
- Lower bracket if too much thread is wound on top of bobbin.
- Raise bracket if too much thread is wound on bottom of bobbin.
- Tighten tension bracket screw.

To control amount of thread on bobbin

- Loosen stop-latch screw.
- Turn stop latch clockwise for less thread on bobbin.
- Turn stop latch counter clockwise for more thread on bobbin.
- Tighten stop-latch screw.

THREADING THE BOBBIN CASE



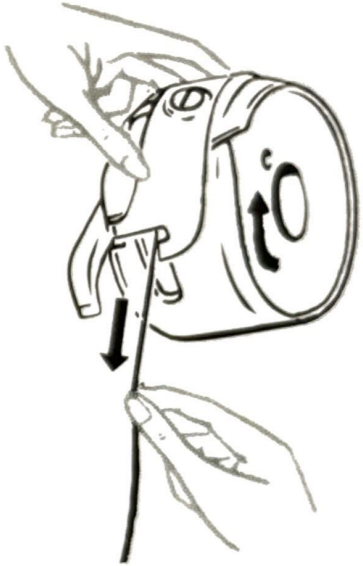


1 Hold bobbin case and bobbin so that thread leads off in direction shown above.

2 Place bobbin into bobbin case. Pull thread into slot.

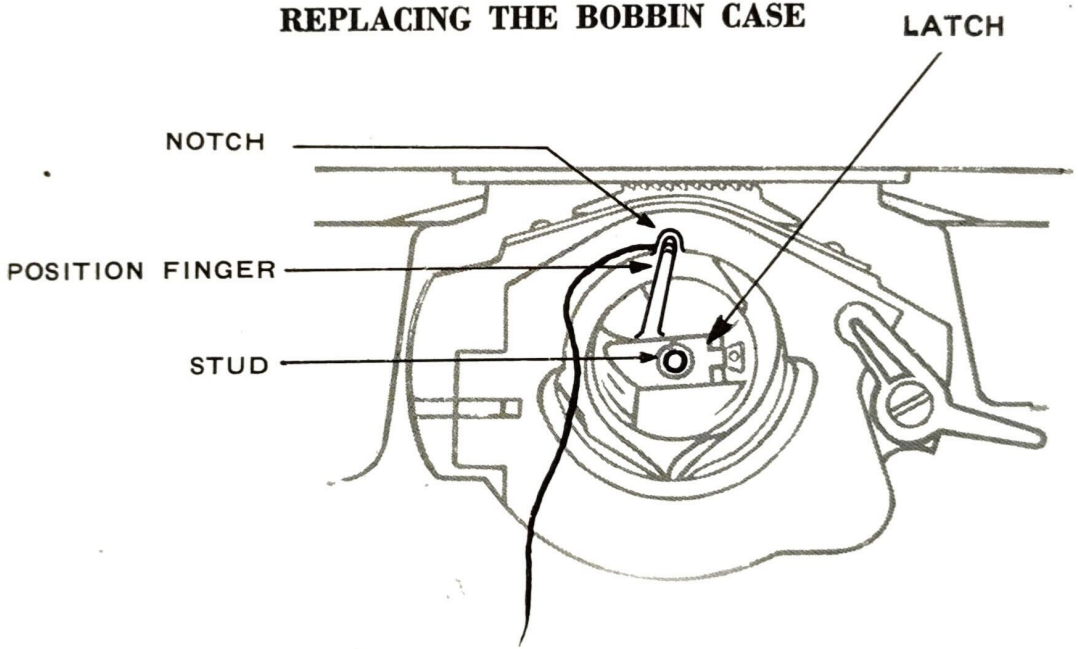
THREADING THE BOBBIN CASE (Cont'd)

3 Pull thread under tension spring and into slot at end of spring, as shown.



You have threaded the bobbin correctly when it rotates in a clockwise direction when you pull the thread, as shown.

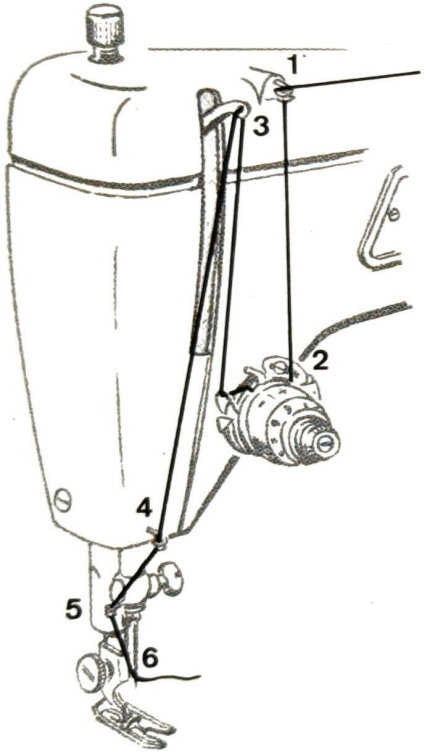
REPLACING THE BOBBIN CASE

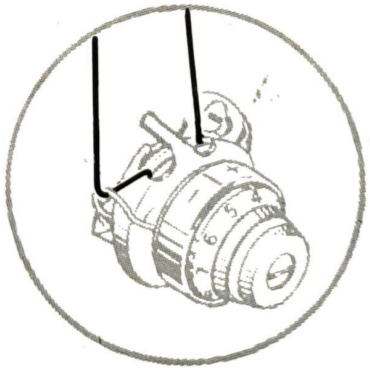


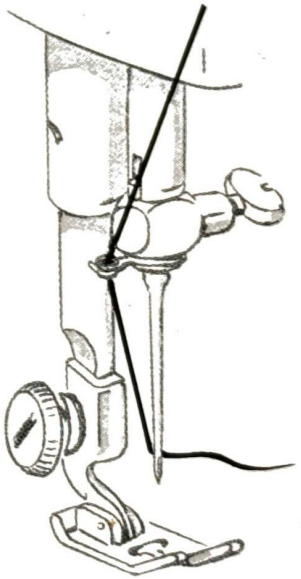
- Raise take-up lever to highest point.
- Hold bobbin case by open latch and place it on stud so that position finger enters notch at top of shuttle race.
- Thread should draw from top of bobbin case, as shown.
- Release latch and push in on bobbin case until it clicks into place.
- Allow about three inches of thread to hang free from bobbin case and close slide plate.

THREADING THE MACHINE (UPPER)

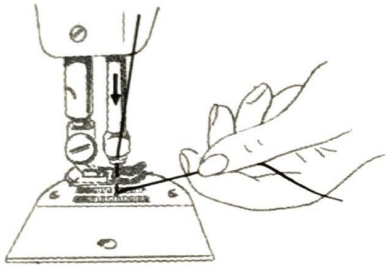
- Raise take-up lever to highest point.
- Place spool of thread on spool pin.
- Lead thread through threading points shown.
- Thread needle from left to right.
- Draw sufficient thread through eye of needle with which to start sewing.



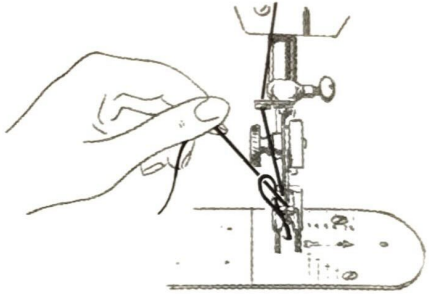




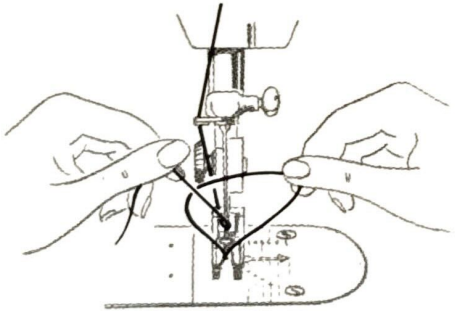
RAISING THE BOBBIN THREAD



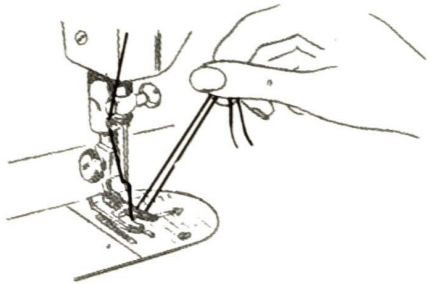
1 Hold needle thread lightly with left hand.



2 Turn hand wheel so that needle enters plate and brings up bobbin thread.



3 Pull end of bobbin thread up through throat plate.

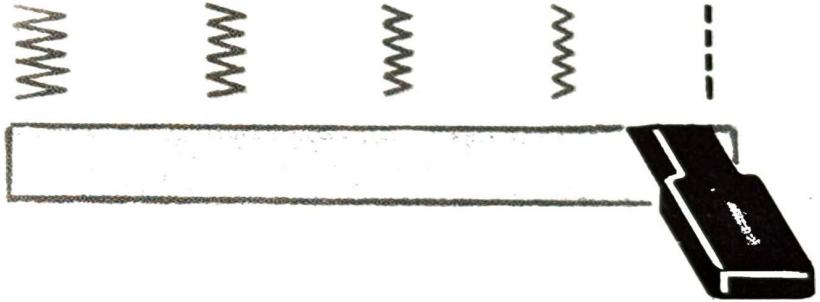


4 Place both needle and bobbin threads diagonally under presser foot.

STRAIGHT STITCHING

Needle position and stitch width selectors

Needle position selector: Center (C)



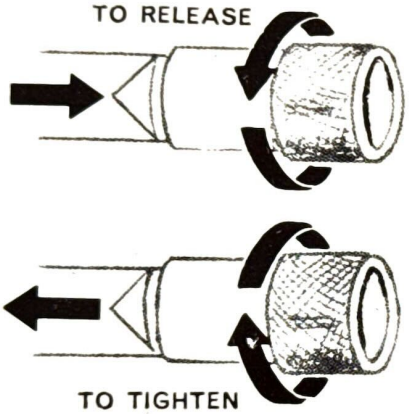
Stitch width selector: straight stitch setting

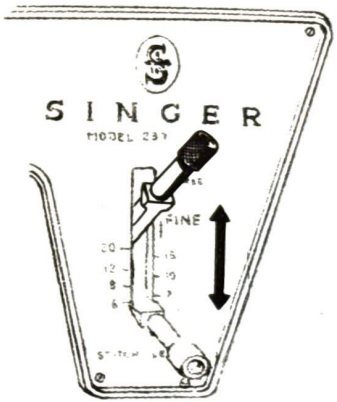
For straight stitching, slide stitch width selector to far right and place needle position selector in center position **(C)**.

Center needle position is preferred; however, stitching may be placed to left or right of center by moving the needle position lever to **"L"** or **"R"** setting.

STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)

Stitch length regulator





Numerals on both sides of the lever represent number of stitches per inch. The higher the number the shorter the stitch.

The **FINE** area (above 20) is used for adjusting zig-zag stitches at very short, satin stitch, lengths. (Refer to stitch length adjustment for satin stitching, page 31).

To set Stitch Length

- Release pointer by turning thumb nut to the left.
- Move lever to desired stitch length setting.
- Tighten pointer against plate by turning thumb nut to the right.

To Stitch in Reverse

Set stitch length as explained above and raise lever as far as it will go.

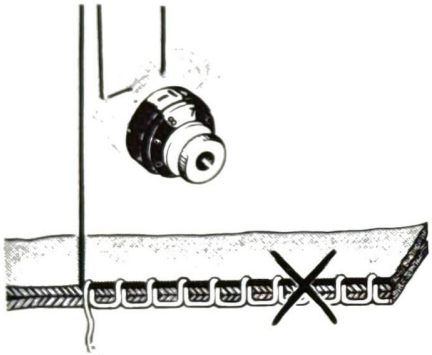
STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)

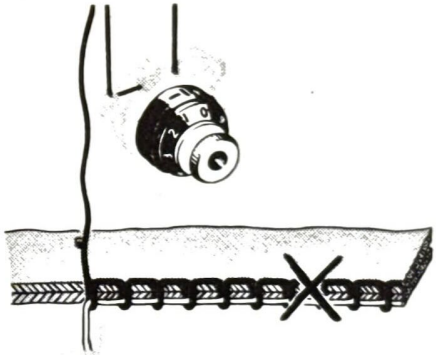
Fabric, thread, needle and stitch length table

FABRICS	THREAD SIZES	NEEDLE SIZES	MACHINE STITCHES PER INCH
DELICATE —tulle, chiffon, fine lace, silk, organdy, fine tricot	Fine Mercerized 100 to 150 Cotton Synthetic Thread	9	15 to 20
LIGHTWEIGHT —batiste, organdy, jersey, voile, taffeta, silk crepe, plastic film	50 Mercerized 80 to 100 Cotton "A" Silk Synthetic Thread	11	12 to 15 (8 to 10 for plastic)
MEDIUM WEIGHT —gingham, percale, piqué, linen, chintz, faille, satin, fine corduroy, suitings	50 Mercerized 60 to 80 Cotton "A" Silk Synthetic Thread	14	12 to 15
MEDIUM HEAVY —gabardine, tweed, sail-cloth, denim, coatings, drapery fabrics	Heavy Duty Merc. 40 to 60 Cotton	16	10 to 12
HEAVY —overcoatings, dungaree, upholstery fabrics, canvas	Heavy Duty Merc. 24 to 40 Cotton	18	6 to 10

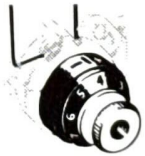
STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)

Needle thread tension regulator





- Needle-thread tension too tight—correct by setting dial to lower number.

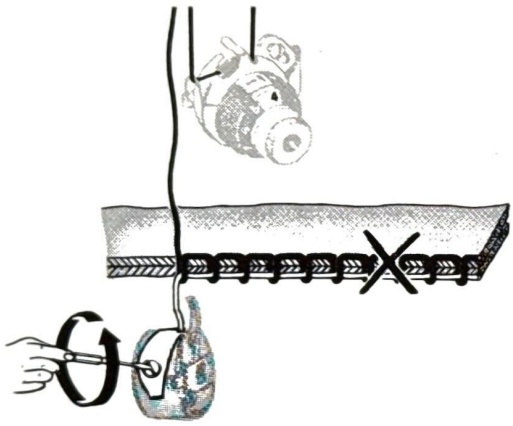


- Needle-thread tension too loose—correct by setting dial to higher number.

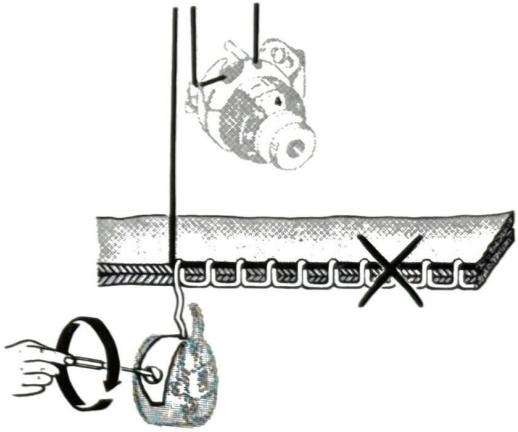
- A perfectly locked stitch results with upper and lower tensions balanced so that needle and bobbin threads are drawn equally into fabric.

STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)

Bobbin-thread tension regulator



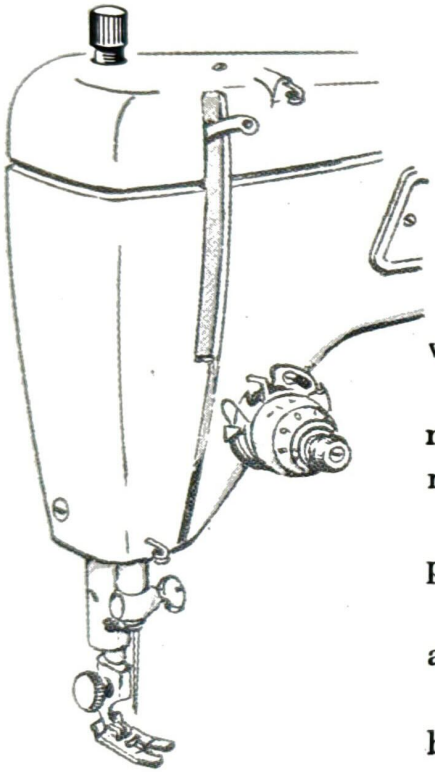
- Bobbin-thread tension too tight –correct by turning screw counterclockwise.



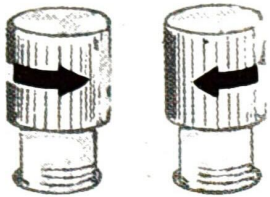
- Bobbin-thread tension too loose –correct by turning screw clockwise.

- A perfectly locked stitch results with upper and lower tensions balanced so that needle and bobbin threads are drawn equally into fabric.

STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)



Pressure control



Decrease **Increase**

- To decrease pressure, turn thumb screw counterclockwise.
- To increase pressure, turn thumb screw clockwise.

Smooth, even handling of several thicknesses of fabric results when pressure is correctly regulated.

Surface finish, as well as the weight and texture of the fabric, must be considered in determining the amount of pressure needed.

Adjustment of the thumb screw regulates the amount of pressure exerted on the material while it is being stitched.

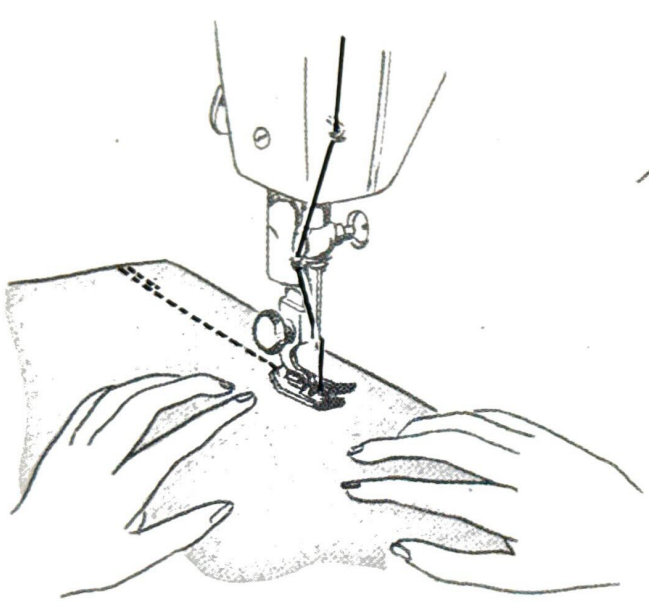
Too light a pressure will result in irregular feeding which affects both quality of stitch and evenness of seams.

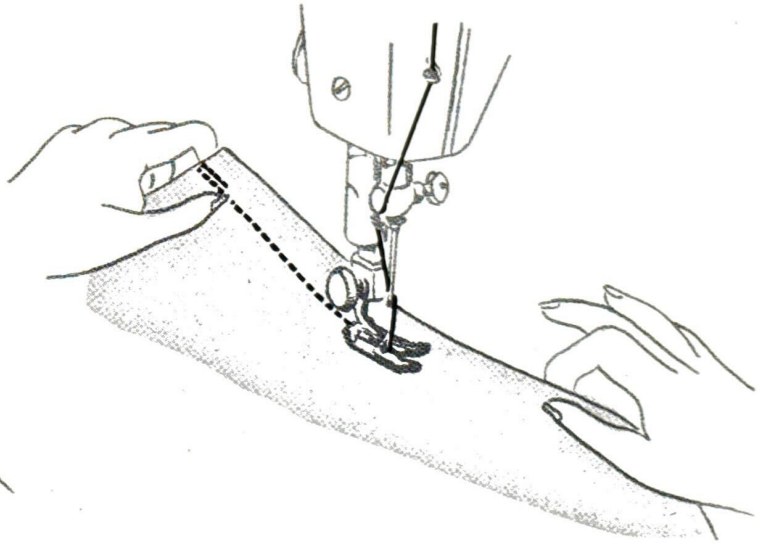
Too heavy a pressure not only affects stitch and seam quality but will mar smooth surfaces and pile fabrics.

Pressure adjustments as described above also apply when zig-zag stitching is used.

STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)

Guiding and supporting fabric



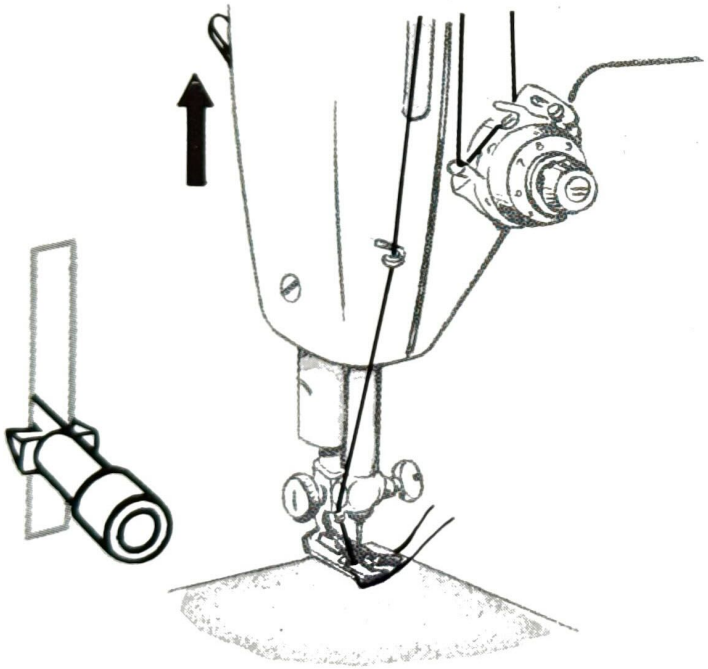


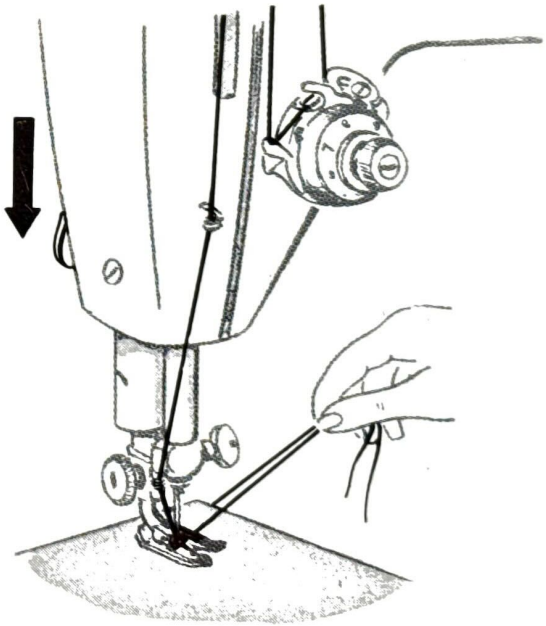
- Most fabrics need to be guided only in front of the presser foot.
- Fabrics of unusual texture and weave, filmy sheers, crepes, knits, tricots, etc., require support while being stitched. For such fabrics apply a gentle tension by holding seam in front and back of the presser foot as illustrated.

STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)

Sewing a seam

- Set stitch regulator for desired stitch length.
- Position needle into fabric a short distance from edge.
- Lower presser foot.

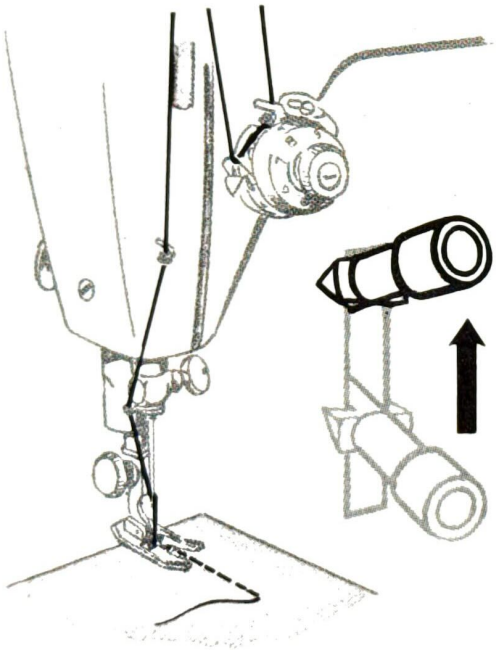




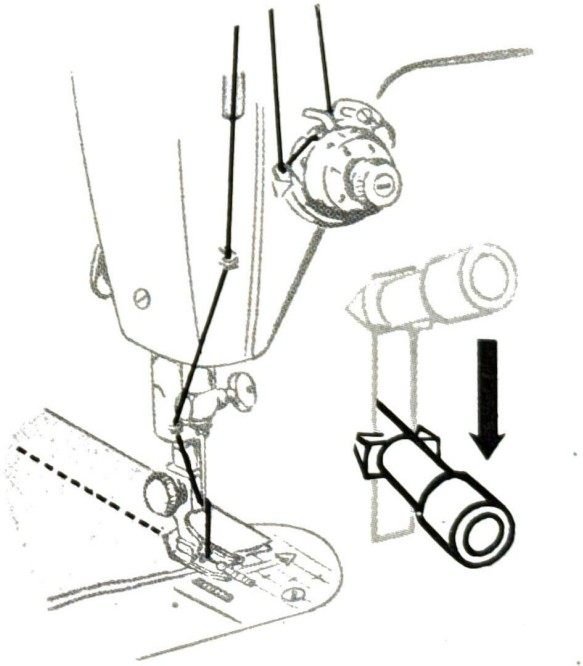
STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)

Sewing a seam (Continued)

- Raise stitch length regulator as far as it will go to reverse stitching position and backtack to edge of fabric for reinforcement.

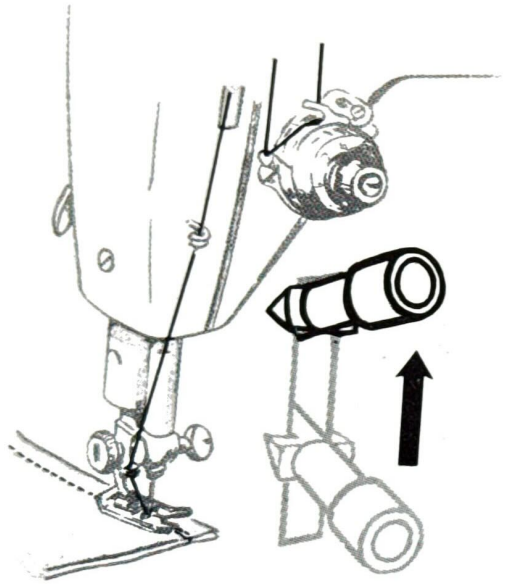


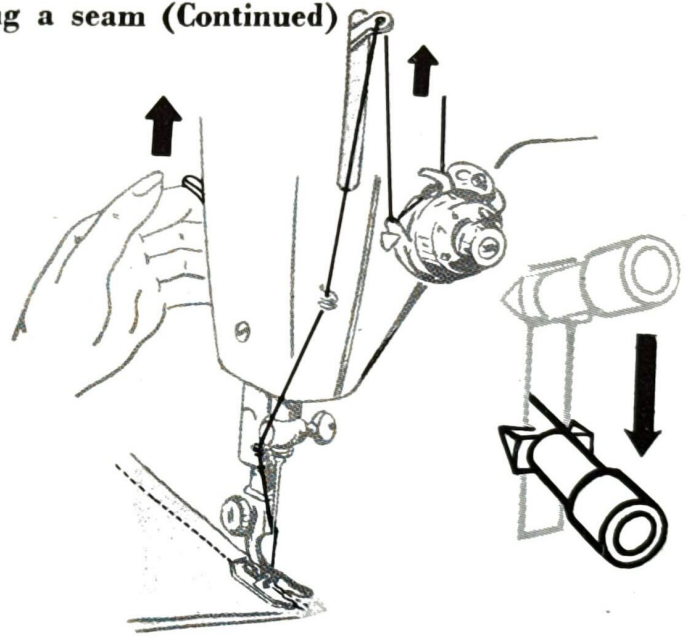
- Lower stitch length regulator to forward stitching position.
- Stitch to end of seam.



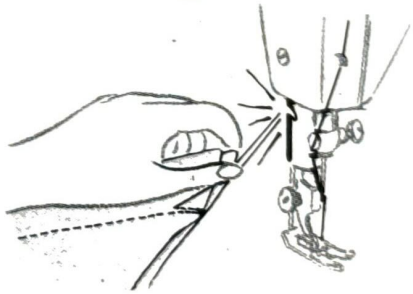
STRAIGHT STITCHING (Continued)

Sewing a seam (Continued)



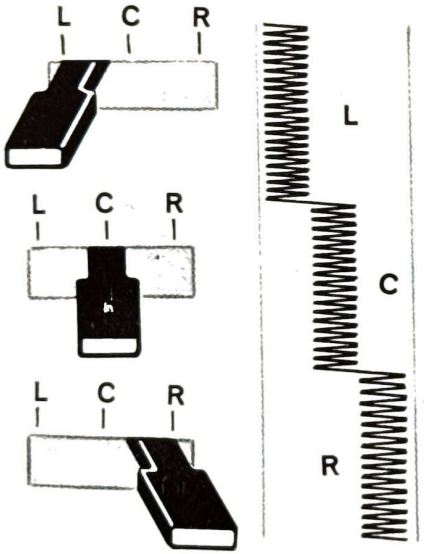


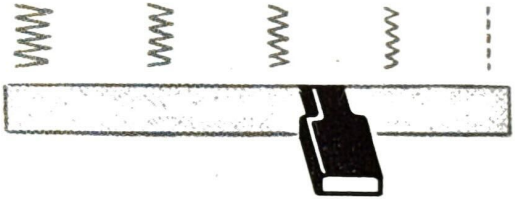
- Raise stitch length regulator and backtack to reinforce end of seam.
- With take-up lever at highest point, raise presser foot and remove fabric by drawing it straight back.
- Cut threads on thread cutter.
- Re-set stitch length regulator for forward stitching.



ZIG-ZAG STITCHING

Needle position selector





Needle position setting of Center **(C)** places stitching in center needle position.

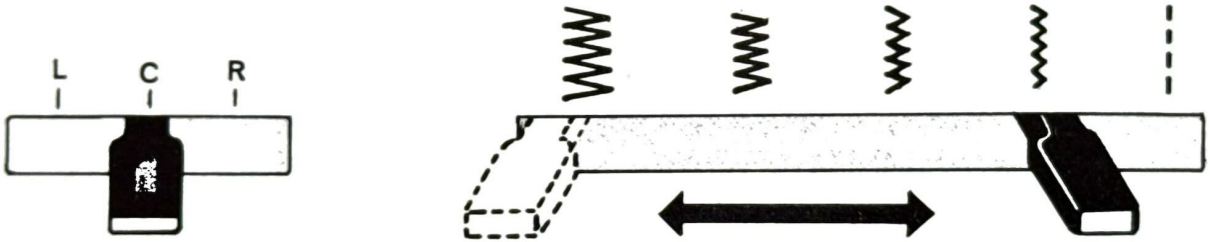
Settings Left **(L)** and Right **(R)** place stitching in left or right needle positions at stitch widths less than maximum.

Center **(C)** needle position is preferred. Left **(L)** or Right **(R)** settings are used only when special placement of stitching is desired... for example when making buttonholes.

Do not make any needle position adjustment with needle in the fabric.

ZIG-ZAG STITCHING (Continued)

Stitch width selector

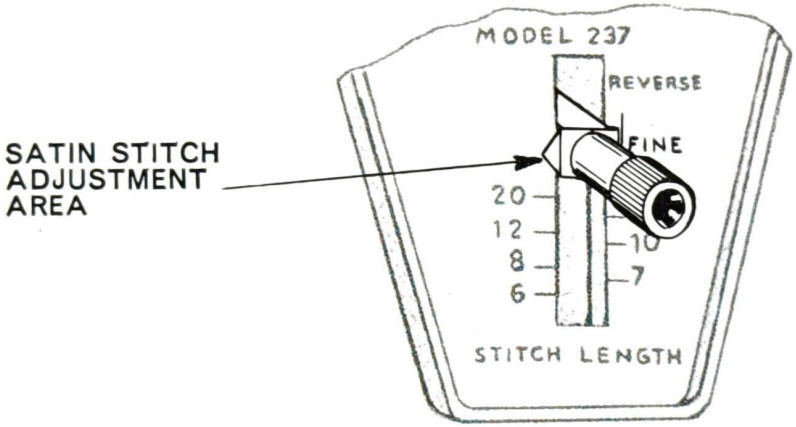


Stitch width selector controls zig-zag stitch width. As the selector is moved to the left, the width of the zig-zag stitch is increased. At maximum setting zig-zag stitch width is 5/32 inch. Four settings are indicated, but intermediate settings may also be used.

To avoid damage to needle and fabric, do not make any selector adjustment with the needle in the fabric.

ZIG-ZAG STITCHING (Continued)

Stitch length regulator



To Adjust Stitch Length for Satin Stitching.

- Release pointer by turning thumb nut to the left.
- Position lever above 20 to FINE area.
- Run machine at slow speed and gradually move lever up until stitches form a smooth surface.
- Tighten pointer against plate by turning thumb nut to the right.

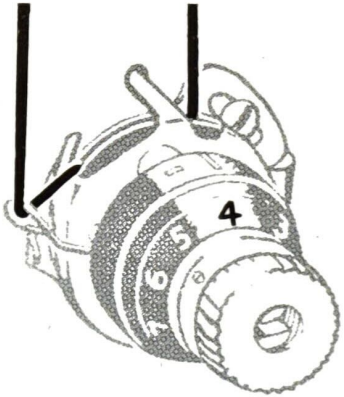
ZIG-ZAG STITCHING

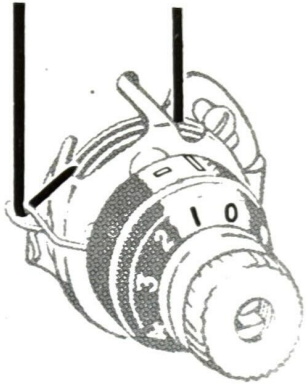
Needle-thread tension

Zig-zag stitching requires less needle thread tension than straight stitching; and closely spaced zig-zag stitches that form a smooth satin-like surface require less tension than widely spaced, open zig-zag stitches. Furthermore, the wider the satin stitching, the lighter the tension required.

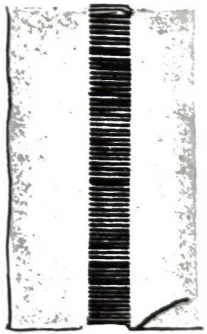
To determine correct tension setting, a test sample should be made on a scrap of the fabric to be used. A properly balanced satin stitch should lie flat across the material.

Some soft fabrics may require the addition of a backing to ensure good stitching. Crisp organdy or lawn is suitable for this purpose.



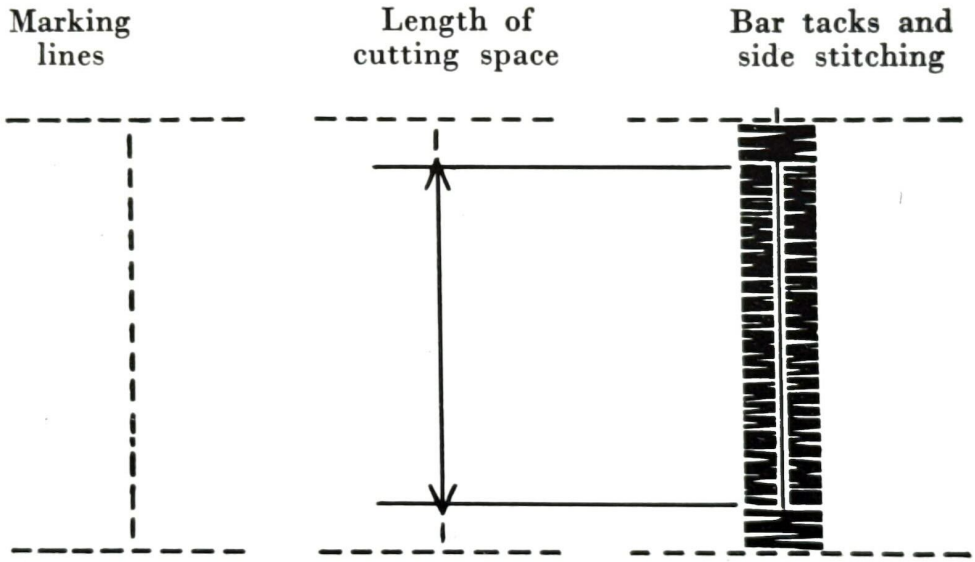


Incorrect



Correct

BUTTONHOLES



The length of the cutting space (the opening through which the button passes) is determined by the width and thickness of the button.

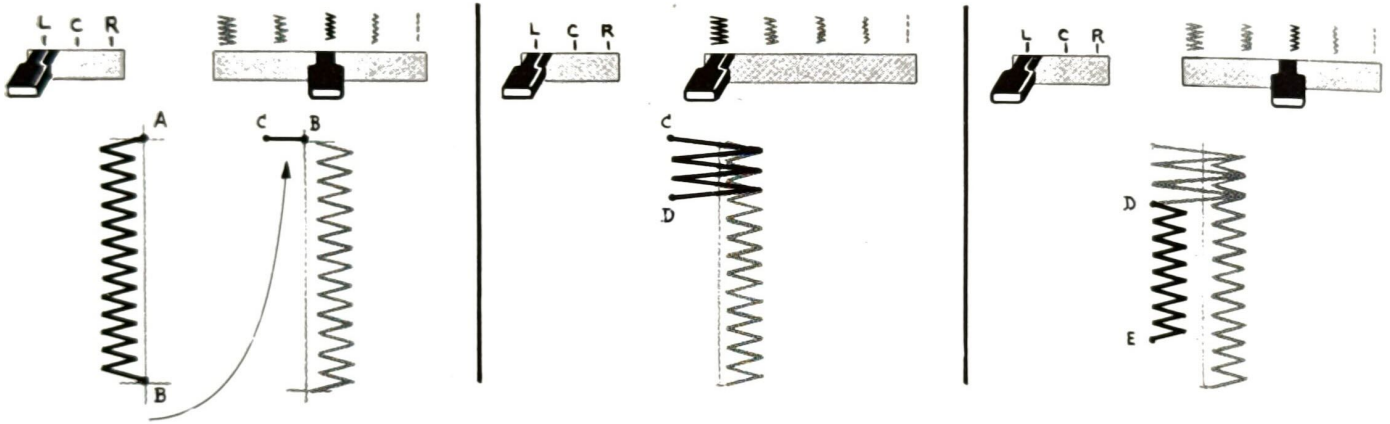
The length of the finished buttonhole will be the cutting space plus 1/8 inch for bar tacks. Work a sample buttonhole to test these measurements as well as stitch width and stitch length settings.

Be sure to use the same fabric and number of fabric layers as in the garment. Mark fabric as shown above.

BUTTONHOLES (Continued)

Needle position: L (left) **Stitch length: FINE (above 20)**

Stitch width: medium and maximum



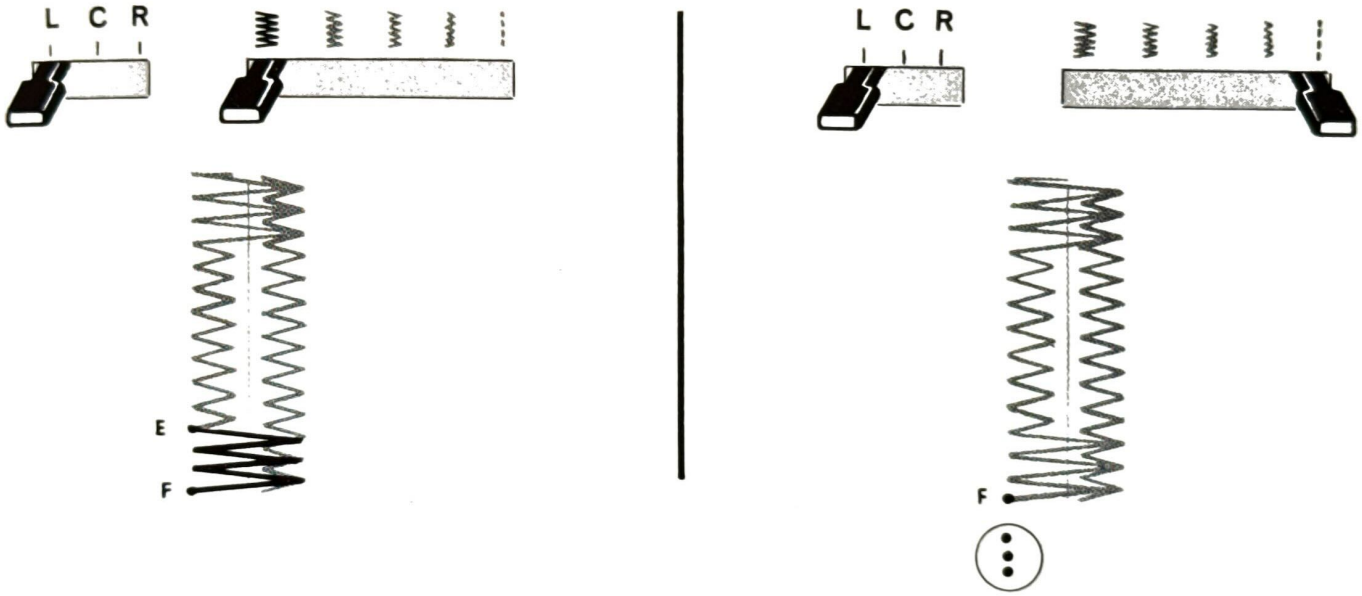
Procedure: Set needle position selector at "**L**", and stitch length regulator in FINE area. Adjust stitch width selector for a medium wide zig-zag stitch. Place work under needle, aligning center marking of buttonhole with center of presser foot.

Side stitching: Position needle in fabric at point **A**. Lower foot and stitch to end of marking. Leave needle in fabric at point **B**. Raise foot and pivot work on needle. Lower foot. Take one stitch without changing width setting, bringing work to point **C**.

Bar tack: Set stitch width selector at maximum setting. Take six stitches to complete tack. Stop at point **D**.

Side stitching: Move stitch width selector back to medium setting. Complete work to point **E**. Point **E** is approximately six stitches from end of buttonhole.

BUTTONHOLES (Continued)

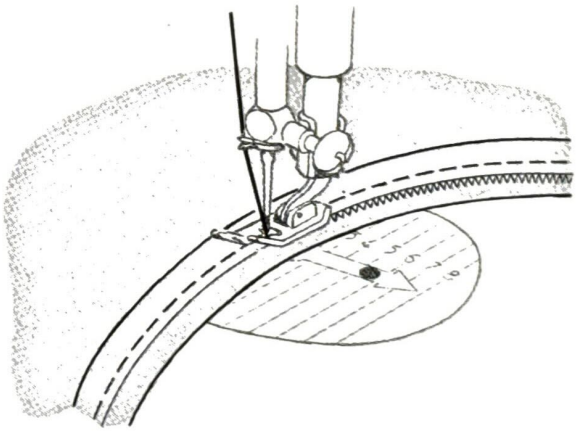


Final bar tack: Set stitch width selector at maximum setting and duplicate tack previously made. End stitching at point **F.**

Fastening stitches: To secure stitching, move selector to straight stitch setting and take three stitches.

Remove work, draw threads to underside and trim. Cut opening for button with sharp embroidery scissors.

ZIG-ZAG APPLICATIONS



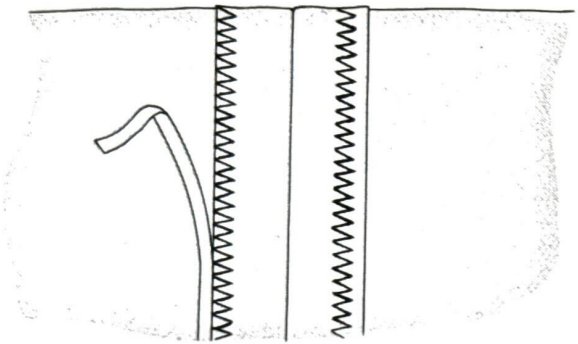
Lingerie seams

Dainty lingerie seams are made durable with zig-zag stitching. After straight stitching seam on wrong side, press both seam allowances in same direction. From right side, top stitch with a narrow zig-zag stitch, letting the needle alternately enter seam line and seam thickness. This finish is particularly suitable for bias seams.

Knit fabric seams

A narrow zig-zag stitch is ideal for seaming knit fabrics. It is particularly suitable for underarm seams, or other seams, where elasticity and give are needed. For curved or bias seams, where a stay is needed to prevent undue stretching, this same stitch can be used to apply seam tape.

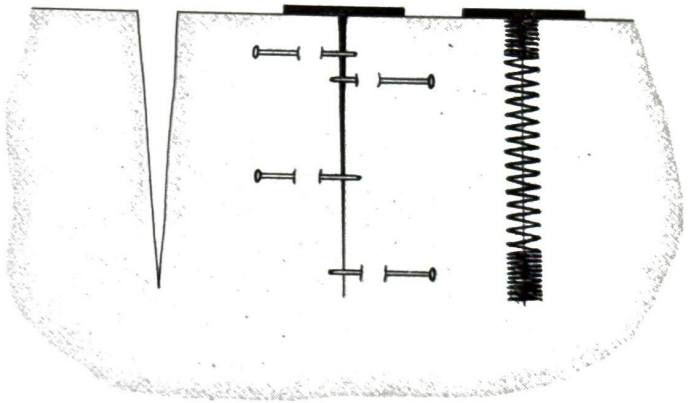
ZIG-ZAG APPLICATIONS (Continued)



Seam finishes

Seam edges support garment and should be given a durable finish where fabrics have a tendency to ravel.

The zig-zag stitch is ideal for seam finishing. Place stitching near edge of seam allowance, and then trim excess fabric.



Darts in interfacing

Interfacing can be shaped without bulk with zig-zag stitching. Cut out dart allowance on stitching line and bring raw edges together. Pin over a muslin stay and stitch. Reinforce both ends with reverse stitching.

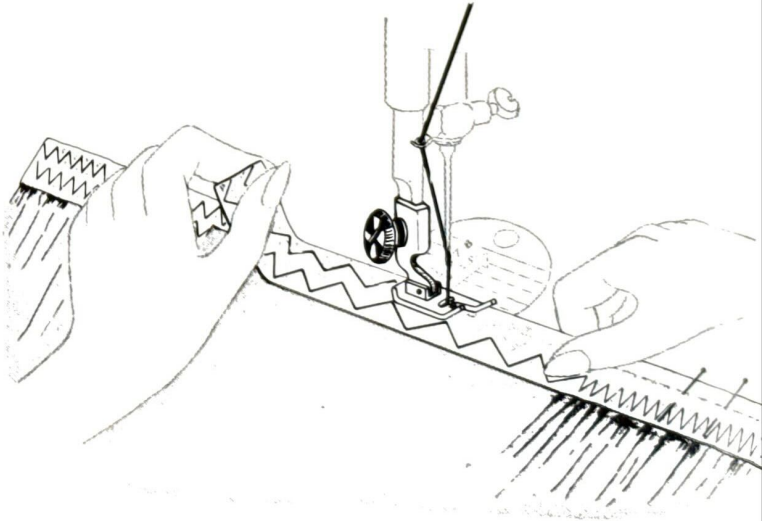
ZIG-ZAG APPLICATIONS (Continued)

Mending

Zig-zag stitching is well suited for all types of household mending. It provides a firm, flexible bond for repair of tears and is ideal for reinforcement and application of elastic. Stitch length and width are regulated according to need.

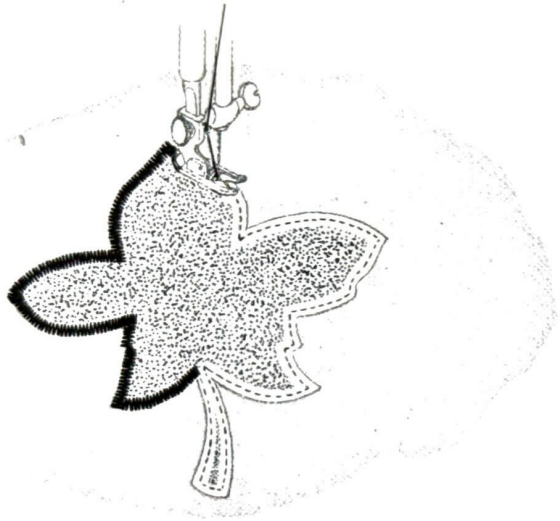
Tears. Trim ragged edges and reinforce tear with underlay. Shorten stitch length at ends and corners for added strength.

Application of Elastic. Elastic must be stretched as it is applied to insure fullness required in the garment.



ZIG-ZAG APPLICATIONS (Continued)

Applique



Motif or designs, applied with a zig-zag stitch, add beauty and interest to wearing apparel and household textiles.

Bands, flowers, leaves or figures in contrasting or self fabric, may be effectively applied to another surface by two methods. The appropriate method is determined by the fabric being used. A test sample is advisable.

METHOD 1

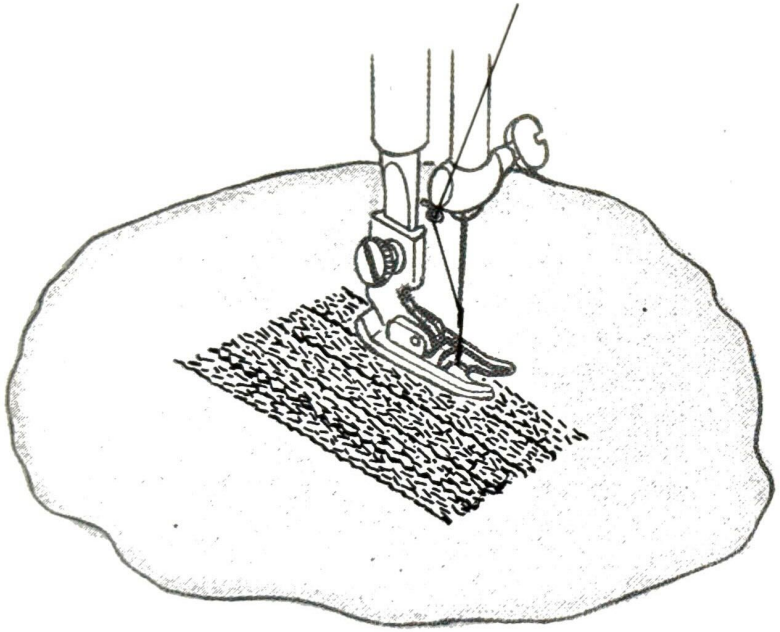
Position and baste design to fabric. Outline the entire design with a short straight stitch. Trim raw edges close to stitching.

Set stitch width and stitch length for zig-zag stitch desired. Overedge design. This smooth uniform finish requires no additional trimming.

METHOD 2

Position and outline design as for Method 1. Follow the shape of design, outlining it entirely with zig-zag stitching. Trim away excess fabric on the outer edges of the applique after stitching has been completed.

DARNING

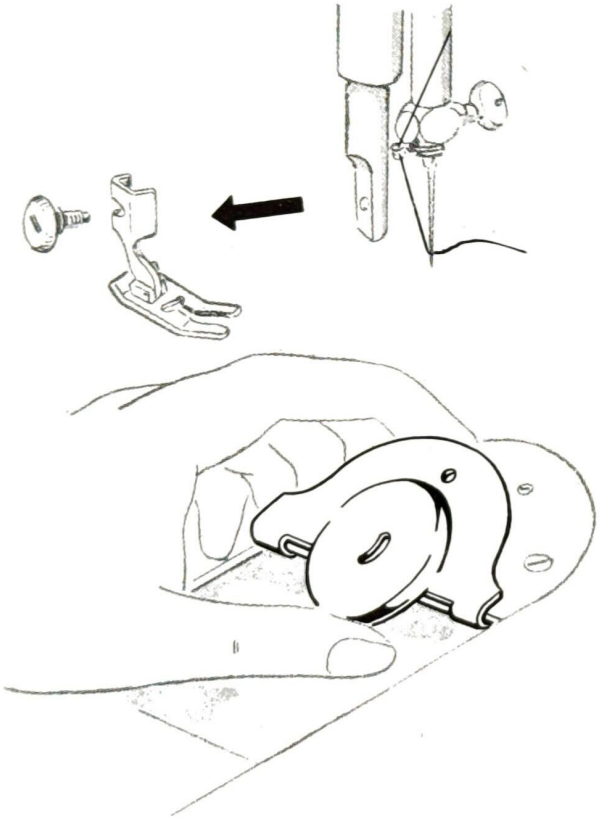


Worn or torn spots on children's clothes, knits, and household linens can be darned effortlessly and quickly with a little practice. (For free-motion darning, see page 42).

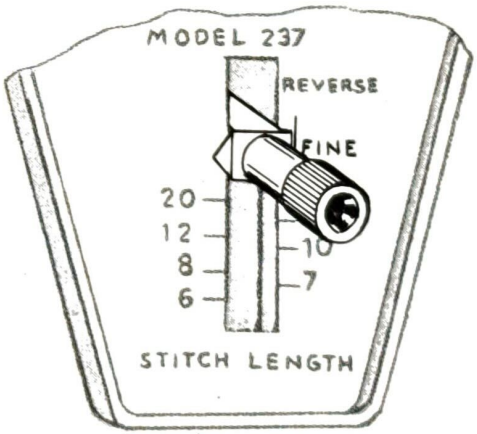
1. Adjust stitch length regulator for desired stitch length (usually about 10 or 12).
2. Decrease pressure by turning pressure regulator thumb screw to right. Pressure should be lighter than for normal sewing but not too light to prevent work from feeding smoothly.
3. If area to be darned is open, baste an underlay in place.
4. Place area to be darned under presser foot.
5. Lower presser foot and start stitching, alternately letting fabric feed normally away from you and then gently pulling fabric toward you. Continue this forward and backward motion until area to be darned is filled with parallel lines of stitching.
6. For additional strength, turn fabric and cover area with crosswise lines of stitching.

FREE-MOTION WORK

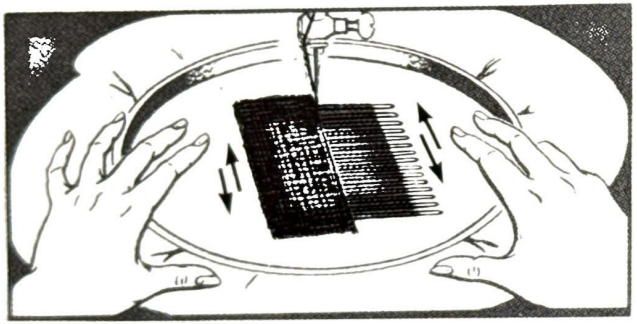
Preparation



- Remove presser foot.
- Open slide plate and position feed cover plate over machine throat plate.
- Close slide plate.
- Set stitch length regulator in FINE area.



FREE-MOTION WORK (Continued)



- Set stitch width and needle position selectors for straight stitching in center needle position.

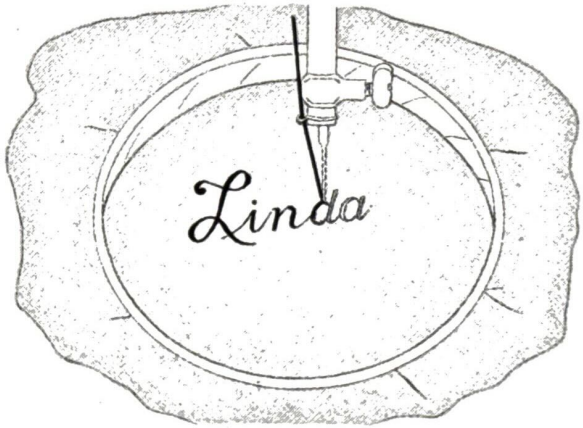
Darning

- Trim ragged edges from area to be darned.
- Center worn section in embroidery hoop.
- Position work under needle and lower presser bar to engage tension.
- Hold needle thread loosely with left hand, turn hand wheel over, and draw bobbin thread up through fabric. Hold both thread ends and lower needle into fabric.
- Outline area to be darned with running stitches for reinforcement.
- Stitch across opening, moving hoop under needle at a slight angle from lower left to upper right. Keep lines of stitching closely spaced and even length.

  When opening is filled, cover area with crosswise lines of stitching.

FREE-MOTION WORK (Continued)

Embroidery - Monograms



Decorative designs of all kinds can be effectively accomplished with zig-zag stitching when the free motion principle is used.

Design is placed in embroidery hoops to hold fabric taut; hoops are moved slowly so that needle follows outline of design. Stitches are shaded from wide to narrow by controlling angle at which work is placed and moved under needle.

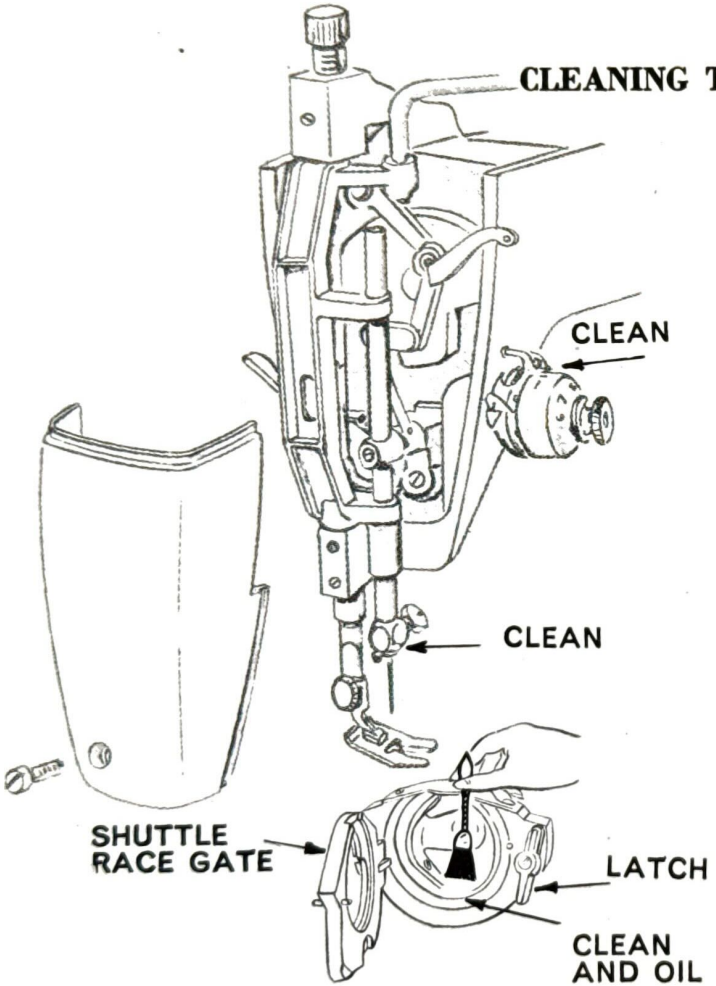
When you have finished darning or embroidering:

- Raise presser bar and attach presser foot.
- Open slide plate and remove feed cover plate. Close slide plate.
- Adjust stitch length regulator to a length setting below the FINE area.

The machine is now ready for regular stitching.

CLEANING THE MACHINE

SINGER* Lint Brush.



When in regular use–

The machine should be cleaned periodically with LINT BRUSH to remove the lint and fluff which may have accumulated around the working parts. Remove face plate loosening screw. Clean the area inside. Remove bobbin case and throat plate, release latch, open shuttle race gate and clean stitch-forming mechanism.

After each cleaning, oil the machine as instructed on pages 45-46-47.

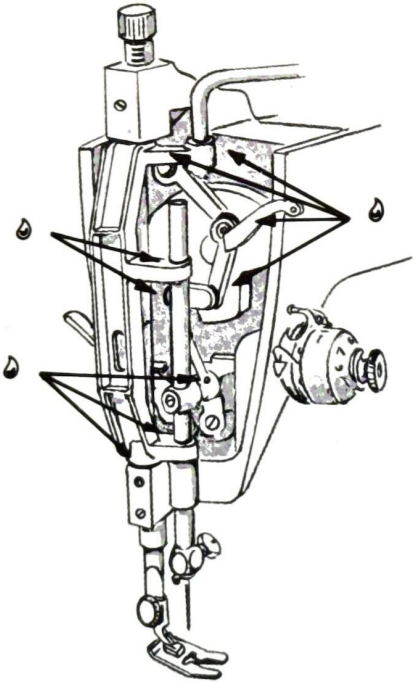
If the machine is to be stored for an indefinite period, brush away all traces of lint and fluff, then swab all exposed parts with a lint-free brush saturated with SINGER* oil to protect against rust damage.

The space area in head of machine that should be cleaned and covered with a protective coat of oil is shown at **left.**

Also clean stitch-forming mechanism and cover exposed parts with a coat of oil.

CARING FOR THE MACHINE (Continued)

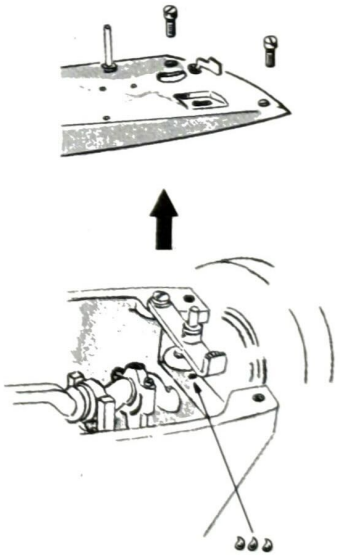
Oiling and lubricating the machine



● Remove face plate and top cover and oil the places indicated.

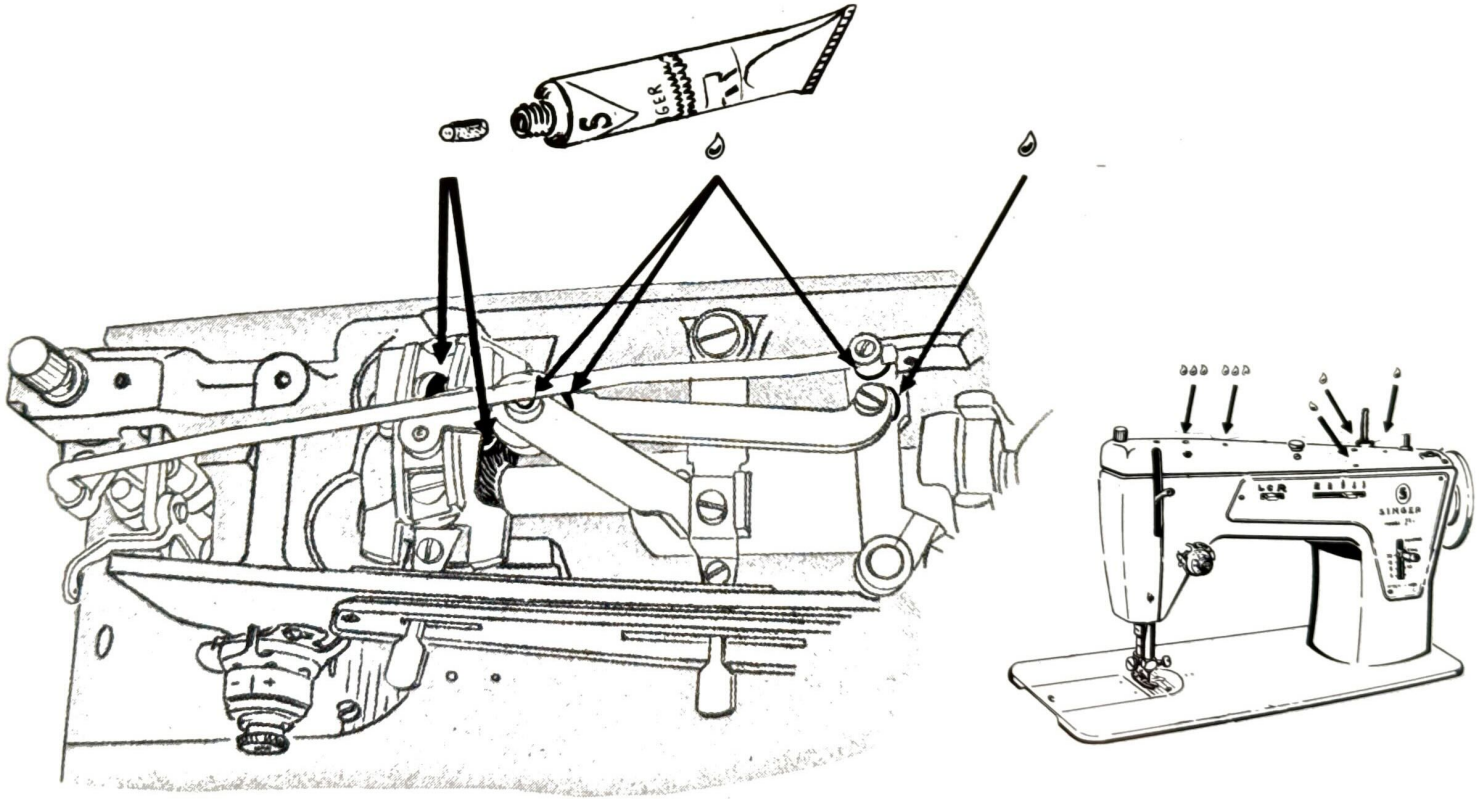
To keep your machine in top running condition, SINGER* Oil and Lubricant, especially prepared for sewing machines, should always be used.

If the machine is used continuously, it should be oiled daily. If moderately used, an occasional oiling is sufficient.



CARING FOR THE MACHINE (Continued)

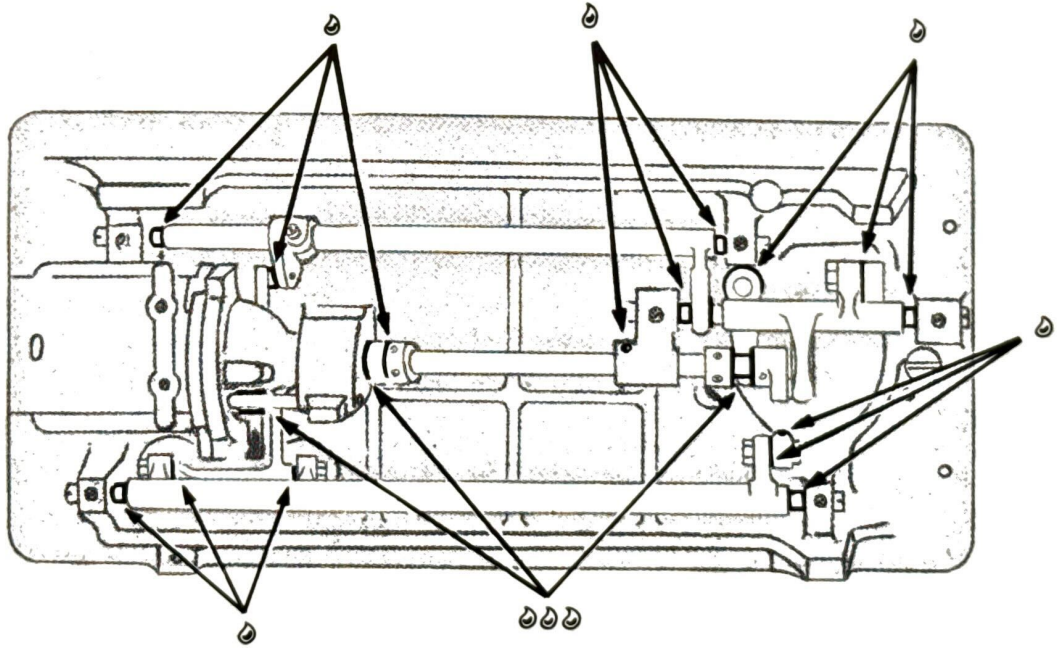
Oiling and lubricating the machine (Continued)



CARING FOR THE MACHINE (Continued)

Oiling and lubricating the machine

- Apply one drop of oil to bottom of machine at each of the places indicated.



SINGER
GUARANTEE

WE GUARANTEE that each SINGER* sewing machine has been carefully manufactured and is in perfect operating condition on delivery. When subject to normal family use and care, any parts requiring replacement at any time due to defects in material or workmanship will be replaced without charge.

THIS GUARANTEE does not apply to parts requiring replacement due to natural wear or to abuse or negligence of the user or in the event the machine is serviced by other than a SINGER representative or Approved Dealer or with parts other than those supplied by The Singer Company.

IN ADDITION to the above guarantee of parts, each machine will be inspected and adjusted whenever necessary without charge for labor for a period of one year from date of purchase.

THIS GUARANTEE is effective only with respect to the person making the purchase from The Singer Company or one of its Approved Dealers. The original Sales Agreement, or Cash Receipt, must be presented to obtain the benefits of the guarantee.

AGREEMENTS inconsistent with the foregoing shall be void and of no effect.

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